

[0007] With the aid of this new process, it is possible to produce a highly consistent stock that can be perfectly processed in a dispersing machine. The mallet roller used according to the invention accepts the plug pieces compressed by the water being pressing out and breaks them up, in particular, by cooperation of the circulating mallets with the impact sections fixed to the circumference. Bigger chunks remain in the processing area longer until they can pass so that the stock flow to the dispersing machine becomes very even. Then, it is further reduced and swirled in the radially interior area of the dispersing armaments, creating very fine fibrous crumbs. If desired, steam is introduced subsequently downstream into a heating zone of the armaments in order to heat the stock to the required temperature. Here, due to the previous breaking up, a comparatively short heating duration is sufficient. The dispersing itself, i.e., the modification of the stock characteristics occurs in a dispersing zone of the device that follows downstream.

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows (Marked-up copies of the amended claims are attached as an Appendix):

1. (Amended) A process for dispersing fibrous paper stock comprising:
delivering an aqueous fibrous paper stock;
pressing some water out of the aqueous fibrous paper stock to form a highly consistent coarse fibrous paper stock;
loosening and distributing the highly consistent stock by introducing the highly